

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.445.2636  
[www.controller.ca.gov](http://www.controller.ca.gov)

PR 005:33

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
OCT 7, 2005

CONTACT: RUSS LOPEZ  
916-445-2636

## Westly Demands Faster Public Safety Funding

**SAN FRANCISCO** -Controller Steve Westly today said he is sponsoring legislation to force the state to pay within three years \$500 million owed to local governments for public safety mandates. Current law allows the state up to 15 years to repay local governments for state mandates.

“It's time for Sacramento to stop covering its budget mess with the money it owes local fire and police departments,” Westly said. “The state should do the right thing and give local emergency services the half-billion dollars that belongs to them.”

Westly's proposal could also benefit the state by saving it up to \$180 million in interest costs. Westly announced his legislation while addressing the League of California Cities Annual Conference in San Francisco.

The state owes an additional \$2 billion for non-public safety mandates. Those billions impact school districts, community colleges, cities and counties.

To address this, Controller Westly will also sponsor legislation that allows local governments, school districts and community colleges to bond against future mandate reimbursements to avoid the up to 15-year delay.

“If we want our cities and schools to deliver at 100 percent, we need to fund them at 100 percent,” Westly said. “Local governments and school districts should have the option to bond if they don't want to wait up to 15 years for Sacramento to finally pay them.”

###